GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3291
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2015
Baggage Scanners at Railway Stations
Mohan Shri P. C.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major railway stations which are provided with baggage screening facilities and the number of scanners installed at various stations to prevent last minute rush;
(b) the number of scanners which are under repair at various metropolitan railway stations particularly in Bangalore stations;
(c) whether any audit report highlighted this matter and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the explosives can be identified by the scanners and if not, the steps taken/being taken to prevent smuggling of explosives by miscreants; and
(e) the details of the mechanism adopted for screening packages and parcels handled at the parcel offices?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)
(a) & (b): At present, major railway stations like New Delhi, Old Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Guwahati, Bhubaneshwar, Howrah, Sealdah, Kolkata Metro, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Dadar, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Itarasi, Bhopal, Bilaspur etc. have been provided with baggage screening facilities. A total of 157 baggage scanners have been installed at 90 railway stations over Indian Railways. However, no baggage scanner has been provided at Bangalore railway station.
(c): No, Madam. However, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in the Performance Audit Report on Security Management in Indian Railways (for the year ended March 2010) has recommended for proper maintenance of the existing security equipments installed at stations and zonal railways have been advised accordingly.
(d): Yes, Madam. Suspicious objects can be identified through baggage scanners, whereas explosive can be detected when any wire or metal is provided with explosive substance. Otherwise, it can be detected by sniffer dogs. Besides, vigil is maintained by on duty RPF/GRP staff and surveillance is also kept through CCTV cameras at stations to detect suspicious persons/objects for prevention of smuggling of explosives by the miscreant.
(e): As per section 163 of the Railways Act, 1989, the Railway administration may check contents of consignment and in case of false declaration made by the consignor in regard to the contents of consignment, penalty is imposed by the Railway Administration. Accordingly, checks are being conducted from time to time by various departments to prevent carriage of restricted commodities.
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